

# Alternatives

## Alternative A

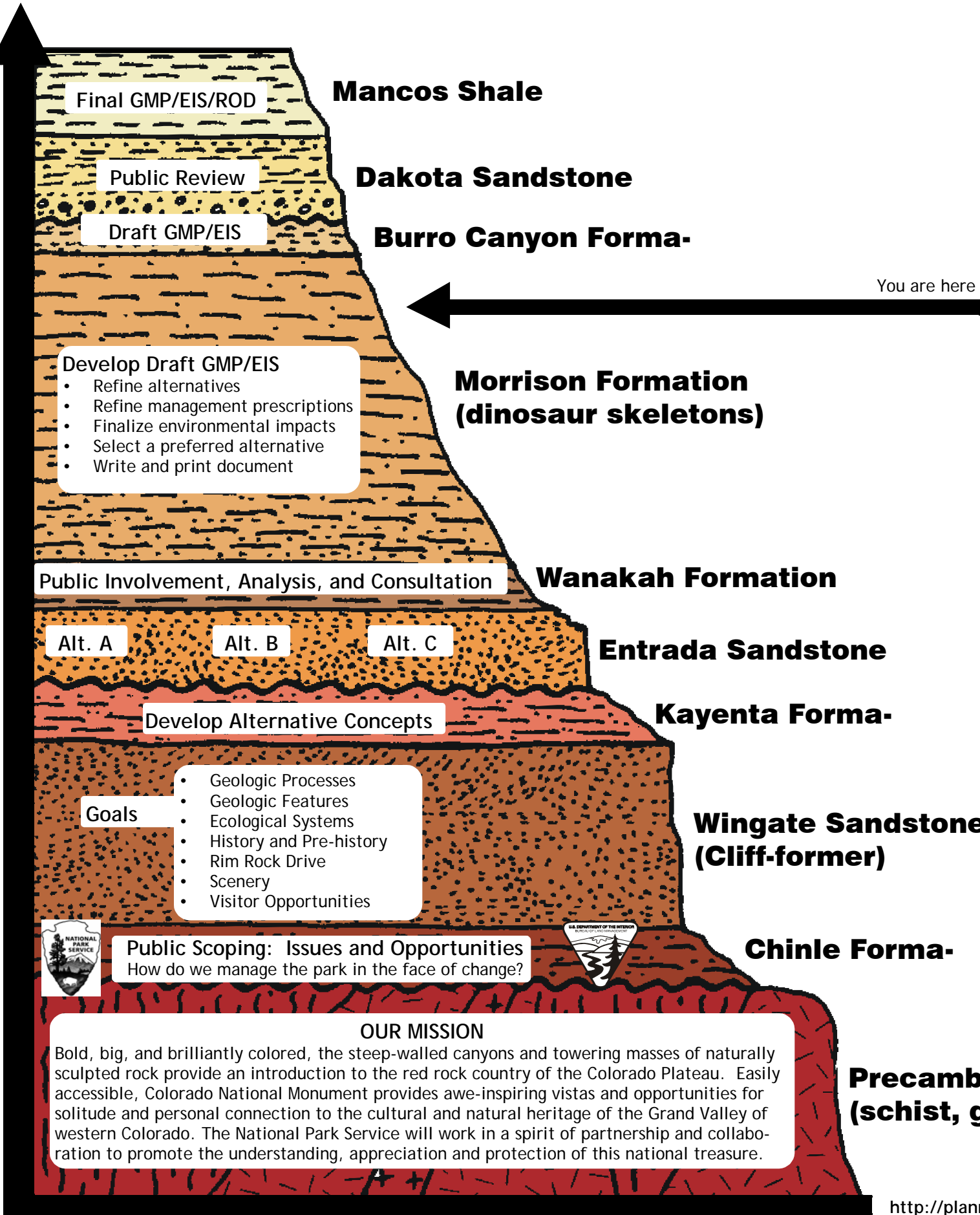
This alternative would continue existing management practices, resulting in current resource conditions and visitor opportunities and the logical progression of known trends over time. It is required as a baseline against which the other alternatives can be compared. Management would be reactive to the crisis of the moment, and the emphasis would be toward program areas that are funded. Continued declining funding (with adjustments for inflation) is likely. Reaction to crisis rather than proactive management would likely increase.

## Alternative B

The concept of this alternative is to weave Colorado National Monument into the regional ecosystem on the north-eastern edge of the Colorado Plateau by pursuing common stewardship goals with government agencies, tribes, educational institutions, and communities. While managed as a unit of the National Park system for all Americans, the monument's importance to and long relationship with the Grand Valley would be recognized as a foundation for our shared future. Emphasis would be placed on providing a spectrum of opportunities for people to connect to the monument's important resources and values, and to form a conservation ethic. To that end, the strategy is to prepare for expected regional demand to enjoy the monument while protecting resources. By strengthening individual relationships, partnerships can be formed for the future protection of common regional and ecosystem goals in the Grand Valley.

## Alternative C

The concept of this alternative is for Colorado National Monument to be a benchmark of undisturbed ecosystems on the northeastern edge of the Colorado Plateau. Land managing agencies would form partnerships to provide a full spectrum of resource conditions and visitor opportunities. Within the mosaic of public lands, the monument would be a distinct control plot focused on the preservation of its important resources and values. Colorado National Monument would be an outdoor laboratory for learning and developing a conservation ethic. Emphasis would be placed on its role in the National Park system, while recognizing the importance of relationships with the residents of the Grand Valley.



# Summary

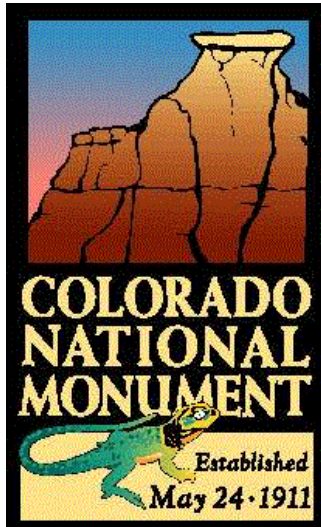
## General Management Plan Colorado National Monument

Like the geology of Colorado National Monument, the general management plan has been built on a solid foundation (mission, purpose, and significance are the Precambrian rock of the plan). Public scoping included meetings, a newsletter, and consultation with agencies, tribes, and local governments to identify issues and opportunities. The planning team developed overall goals for fundamental park resources and values, and alternative concepts for managing the monument. Another round of public meetings, newsletters, and consultations led to further refinement of the alternatives and management prescriptions. The team recommended one of the alternatives to the NPS Regional Director, and received concurrence. The planning team is now finalizing the draft plan, environmental impact analysis and preparing to print the document.

The Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement (GMP / EIS) will contain the three alternatives summarized at the left, identifying one of them as the preferred alternative. It will include an analysis of the environmental impacts, and will be available for public review and comment (on the NPS web site, at libraries, by CD-ROM, or printed copy). Another round of public meetings will be held in the vicinity of the monument.



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## Save Trees!!! Save Taxpayer Dollars!!!



We want your review and comments, but please help us to save trees and taxpayer dollars. Printing and mailing this 200-page GMP / EIS costs about \$20 per copy. There are some efficient alternatives:

- Request a CD-ROM if you have a computer—this only costs about \$3 per copy and saves a lot of paper.
- Read a copy on the web if you have a computer. A full copy in .pdf format will be posted at the web site referenced in this newsletter, and can be downloaded with the free Adobe Acrobat reader.
- Visit a library (copies will be available at libraries in Fruita, Grand Junction, and Denver) or the headquarters office of Colorado National Monument to review a copy.

Of course, if you need a printed copy of the draft GMP / EIS, you may request one. Please use the enclosed post card to let us know your preference.

THANK YOU!

***You MUST return the post card inside to receive a CD-ROM or printed copy of the draft GMP / EIS***

<http://planning.nps.gov/plans.cfm>

## General Management Planning News



# Colorado National Monument

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## From the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

You have not been forgotten! The General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) for Colorado National Monument is underway and moving forward. The process began with the first newsletter and public meetings in January 2002, and after additional meetings, consultations, research, and writing, the draft plan is being finalized and will be ready for public review in January, 2004.

In the middle of this newsletter you will find an outline of the planning process, where we are today, and a brief summary of the alternatives. The planning process is illustrated on a geologic cross section of Colorado National Monument, representing the slow building of the plan on a solid foundation (mission of the park) and layers of analysis, consultation, and public involvement. There is also a brief description of each of the three alternatives.

One of the aspects of the process that the planning team is proud of is the coordination with the Bureau of Land Management. They have been simultaneously preparing a Resource Management Plan for the adjacent Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area. Together, we have identified common goals as well as differing aspects of our mandates, and the result has been complementary plans and a basis for ongoing coordination.

Please help us to conserve paper (and trees) as well as taxpayer dollars. In the center of this newsletter is a post card offering alternatives to receiving a full printed copy of the draft GMP / EIS. These books are some 200 pages in length and expensive to print and mail. If you want to receive a document or a CD-ROM, you will have to return the card.

If you have any comments or questions at any time, please feel free to contact us at:



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e-mail: [COLM\\_Superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:COLM_Superintendent@nps.gov)

Or visit the website at:  
<http://planning.nps.gov/plans.cfm>

Please accept our thanks in advance for your input and assistance. We appreciate your interest in Colorado National Monument and look forward to hearing from you during review of the draft GMP / EIS.

Sincerely,

Palma E. Wilson  
Superintendent

